

The 100% Unofficial
Quick Guide
to the
JUNIOR Eurovision Song Contest 2018

100% Неафіцыйны
кароткае кіраўніцтва
Дзіцячае Еўрабачанне 2018

for
Commentators
Broadcasters
Media
&
Fans

Compiled by Lisa-Jayne Lewis & Samantha Ross

Укладальнік Ліза Джэйн Льюіс і Саманты Рос

Junior Eurovision: a brief history:

The Junior Eurovision Song Contest, now in its sixteenth edition, was inspired by a Danish children's show in 2000 that evolved to become Scandinavia's *MGP Nordic*. Junior Eurovision was first run in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2003, with Croatia taking home the first JESC trophy.

Active member broadcasters of the EBU are permitted to take part and vote in the contest, though the show has been screened in several non-participating countries. Contest participation may be extended to Associate EBU Members at the discretion of the reference group and the host broadcaster. We see that this year with the inclusion of Australia and Kazakhstan.

Out of the thirty-nine countries that have ever participated, only two, Belarus and The Netherlands, have competed in every Junior Eurovision so far. Ten nations have won the contest at least once, but as of 2018, Georgia has been the most successful nation with three wins and one 2nd place. Belarus currently have two victories and one 2nd place, and Malta have two wins in the bank as well.

A number of Junior Eurovision alumni have "graduated" to the grown-up Contest, either as backing singers or as lead vocalists. The Tolmachevy Sisters, who won Junior Eurovision in 2006 with "Vesenniy Jazz", sang on behalf of Russia in 2014, coming in seventh place overall with "Shine". Sisters Lisa, Amy & Shelley Vol, who represented the Netherlands in 2007, performed as O'G3NE ten years later, coming in eleventh place with "Lights and Shadows". And barely six months after singing as a member of The Peppermints in 2014, Anita Simoncini sang "Chain of Lights" for San Marino alongside Michele Perniola, who was also a JESC alum for the microstate.

The Rules (A Basic Guide):

The contest has been through many changes in its sixteen years, but the overall structure of Junior Eurovision has stayed pretty static. Each participating national broadcaster sends an act and song to represent them at the annual event. Winners are determined by the combined vote of national juries and the public.

While there are similarities between the Eurovision Song Contest and Junior Eurovision Song Contest, there are some very distinct differences too:

- Currently, Junior Eurovision hosts are selected via a bidding system. Until 2017, the winning country was given the right of first refusal to host the following year's event. The first winning country to host the following year was Armenia in 2011.
- Performers must be between the ages of 9 – 14 on the day of the contest. At Eurovision, all artists must be aged 16 or older.
- Supporting vocals may be included on the backing track, and they do not need to be performed live. However, all lead vocals must be performed live. Like Eurovision, instrumentation is to be exclusively on the backing track and not performed live, although performers are allowed to mime playing instruments.
- Up to eight performers are allowed on stage at Junior Eurovision, while a maximum of six is permitted at the Eurovision Song Contest.

- Since 2005, all participating countries have received 12 points automatically, making a finishing score of 12 equivalent to a *nul point* result. Fortunately, this has yet to happen.
- The song must be sung in one of the national languages of the country it is representing, although some lyrics are allowed in another language.
- Performers must be nationals of the country, or have lived there for at least 2 years.
- The song must last a minimum of 2 minutes 45 seconds; there is no minimum length at the Eurovision Song Contest. Both contests set a maximum song length of three minutes.

2018 Host City: Minsk

Minsk is the capital and largest city of Belarus, situated on the Svislach and Nyamiha Rivers. The area of today's Minsk was settled by the Early East Slavs by the 9th century AD. The Svislach River valley was the settlement boundary between two Early East Slavic tribes – the Krivichs and Dregovichs. By 980, the area was incorporated into the early medieval Principality of Polotsk, one of the earliest East Slav principalities of Old Rus' state with 1067 now widely accepted as the founding year of Minsk. Minsk today has a population of around 2 million people and is divided into nine administrative districts, or *raions*. Minsk is twinned with last year's Junior Eurovision host city, Tbilisi.

2018 Venue: The Minsk Arena

The Minsk Arena complex took three years to build and was opened in January of 2010. One of its first major events was the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2010, which means that the Minsk Arena is the first Junior Eurovision venue to host the show twice. The arena cost approximately \$350 million to build and features a velodrome, speed-skating rink, and a bandy facility. Primarily, it is used as a professional sports arena; it is the home of the Kontinental Hockey League's AC Dinamo Minsk, as well as the Belarus Premier League and VTB United League basketball team Tsmoki-Minsk. Notable concerts that the venue has hosted include Jennifer Lopez, Shakira and Depeche Mode.

2018 Hosts:

For the first time since 2009, Junior Eurovision will be presented by a trio of hosts:

- **Evgeny “Eugene” Perlin:** Known to the Eurovision community as the voice of BTRC's ESC commentary since 2013, as well as last year's JESC commentary, 28-year-old Eugene is a well-known face on Belarusian television, hosting the news, a breakfast show, as well as a Saturday evening program.
- **Zinaida “Zena” Kupriyanovich:** Sixteen-year old Zena is an accomplished performer, having attempted to sing for Belarus at Junior Eurovision in 2015 and 2016. Outside of the world of Junior Eurovision, Zena took part in the 2013 edition of Children's New Wave, as well as the 2014 edition of Slavianski Bazaar, where she ended up as first runner-up. She is also the voice of Moana in the Russian-language dub of the eponymous film.
- **Helena Meraai:** Helena, age fifteen, had the honor of representing Belarus at Junior Eurovision in 2017, coming in fifth place with “I Am the One”. Prior to that, she took home the victory at the Children's New Wave Festival as part of the trio “Eyva”. Helena will be the host of this year's Green Room, just as she was for this year's Belarusian JESC National Final.

In addition, television presenters Denis Dudinsky and Anna Kviloria will host the Opening Ceremony.

Voting

Traditionally both Eurovision and Junior Eurovision have been judged using a combination of jury and/or public televoting. However this year sees the second time that online voting will be used at any of the Eurovision family of events. There will still be a jury vote, which will be combined with the online vote to produce a winner.

There will be a clip of the song uploaded to the official website (www.junioreurovision.tv) the Friday before the contest. Viewers can vote for 3,4 or 5 countries when the voting opens and voters can vote for their home country. Voting will close before the live show on Sunday and will then re-open during the show for a further 15 minutes of voting.

The new style of voting announcement, which was introduced at the Eurovision Song Contest in Stockholm 2016, will continue with the spokesperson announcing the results from each country's jury in the usual 1-8, 10 & 12 point Eurovision style. Then the results from the online vote will be combined together and then added to the scoreboard one result at a time, this means it will not be clear who the winner is until very late in the score announcement, last year it came down to the very last one.

Results History

Year	Host City/Country	Winning Country	Song Singer	Runner-up
2003	Copenhagen, Denmark	Croatia	<i>Ti si moja prva ljubav</i> Dino Jelušić	Spain
2004	Lillehammer, Norway	Spain	<i>Antes muerta que sencilla</i> María Isabel	UK
2005	Hasselt, Belgium	Belarus	<i>My vmeste</i> Ksenia Sitnik	Spain
2006	Bucharest, Romania	Russia	<i>Vesenniy Jazz</i> Tolmachevy Sisters	Belarus
2007	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Belarus	<i>S druz'yami</i> Alexey Zhigalkovich	Armenia
2008	Limassol, Cyprus	Georgia	<i>Bzz</i> Bzikebi	Ukraine
2009	Kyiv, Ukraine	Netherlands	<i>Click Clack</i> Ralf Mackenbach	Armenia Russia
2010	Minsk, Belarus	Armenia	<i>Mama</i> Vladimir Arzumanyan	Russia
2011	Yerevan, Armenia	Georgia	<i>Candy Music</i> CANDY	Netherlands
2012	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Ukraine	<i>Nebo</i> Anastasiya Petryk	Georgia
2013	Kyiv, Ukraine	Malta	<i>The Start</i> Gaia Cauchi	Ukraine
2014	Marsa, Malta	Italy	<i>Tu primo grande amore</i> Vincenzo Cantiello	Bulgaria
2015	Sofia, Bulgaria	Malta	<i>Not My Soul</i> Destiny <u>Chukunyere</u>	Armenia

2016	Valletta, Malta	Georgia	Mzeo Mariam Mamadashvili	Armenia
2017	Tbilisi, Georgia	Russia	Wings Polina Bogesevich	Georgia
2018	Minsk, Belarus			

Albania

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Eftthimia "Efi" Gjika	Age	10
Song Title	Barbie		
Language(s)	Albanian, English		
Composer(s)	Music: Eftthimia Gjika / Lyrics: Hristina Gjika		

Artist Profile	One of this year's youngest performers, ten-year-old Eftthimia "Efi" Gjika has performed in a number of local productions and festivals, but her win at Junior Fest and subsequent trip to Minsk will be her biggest performance yet.
----------------	---

Song Description	Bright and sassy, "Barbie" is all about a young girl's desire for independence and not to be seen as just a doll, without opinions or feelings of her own.
------------------	--

Selection Process	Sixteen competitors took part in <i>Junior Fest</i> , and the winner was selected by a jury of music professionals.
Date Announced	23 rd September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2012
No. of JESC appearances	5
Best position	5 th (2015)
Finishing position 2017	13 th
Artist / Song 2017	Ana Kodra / Don't Touch My Tree
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Eugent Bushpepa / Mall
Finishing Position	11th

Armenia

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	L.E.V.O.N. (Levon Galstyan)	Age	12
Song Title	L.E.V.O.N.		
Language(s)	Armenian		
Composer(s)	Music & Lyrics: Artem Valter		

Artist Profile	Levon Galstyan is no stranger to competition; he took part in <i>The Voice Kids</i> in Russia in 2016, and has participated in a number of other youth competitions. He is also a member of the vocal group "Voices of Artsakh".
----------------	--

Song Description	Levon's eponymous song is a call to the dance floor! With a memorable horn riff and beat, this has total earworm potential.
------------------	---

Selection Process	<i>Depi Mankakan Evratesil</i> was used to select both the artist and the song. The show consisted of 23 competitors over 2 semi-finals, with 10 making the grand final. The winner was decided by a combination of a panel of adults, a kids' jury, and public voting.
Date Announced	22 nd September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
No. of JESC appearances	12
Best position	1 st (2010)
Finishing position 2017	6 th
Artist / Song 2017	Misha / Boomerang

Host	Yerevan 2011
------	--------------

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Sevak Khanagyan / Qami
Finishing Position	NQ

Australia

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Jael (Jael Wena)	Age	12
Song Title	Champion		
Language(s)	English		
Composer(s)	Music & Lyrics: MSquared		

Artist Profile	Jael is from Melbourne. She is from a musical family and has been writing and recording music in her Dad's studio since she was 4 years old. Having entered the <i>Fast Track Talent Showcase</i> for three consecutive years, she won the top prize and aims to produce inspiring and positive music.
----------------	--

Song Description	"Champion" is uplifting and anthemic, not unlike other Australian JESC entries in the past. Jael's message of determination and perseverance is clear!
------------------	--

Selection Process	The Australian artist and song were both internally selected by the broadcaster.
Date Announced	Artist: 1 st September Song: 8 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2015
No. of JESC appearances	4
Best position	3 rd (2017)
Finishing position 2017	3 rd
Artist / Song 2017	Isabella Clarke / Speak Up

Host	-
------	---

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Jessica Mauboy / We Got Love
Finishing Position	20th

Azerbaijan

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Fidan Hüseynova	Age	13
Song Title	I Wanna Be Like You		
Language(s)	Azerbaijani, English		
Composer(s)	Music: Isa Melikov, Fidan Huseynova / Lyrics: Ayten Ismikhanova, Elvira Michieva		

Artist Profile	Fidan, born to an Azeri family in Moscow, took part in San Remo Junior this year, coming in third place overall. Now living in Baku, she's currently in sixth grade.
----------------	--

Song Description	"I Wanna Be Like You" is a sweet ballad about a child's admiration for someone special in their life.
------------------	---

Selection Process	Both the song and singer representing Azerbaijan were selected internally.
Date Announced	Artist: 18 th September Song: 16 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2012
No. of JESC appearances	3
Best position	7 th (2013)
Finishing position 2017	-
Artist / Song 2017	-
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Aisel / X My Heart
Finishing Position	NQ

Belarus

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Daniel Yastremsky	Age	14
Song Title	Time		
Language(s)	Russian & English		
Composer(s)	Music: Kirill Good / Lyrics: Roman Kolodko		

Artist Profile	Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the United States, Daniel moved to Minsk with his family as a young child. He was a participant in last year's New Wave Junior festival, coming in seventh place.
----------------	--

Song Description	"Time" is a slick and modern ballad about how hard it is to find the right words in the right moment, and letting one's feelings show. Everyone needs different things in life, but time will always lead the way.
------------------	--

Selection Process	A national final of 10 competitors was held at the 600 Metrov studio in Minsk. The result was determined by a 50/50 split vote from a jury of music professionals and a public televote.
Date Announced	31 st August

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
No. of JESC appearances	16
Best position	1 st (2005 & 2007)
Finishing position 2017	5 th
Artist / Song 2017	Helena Meraai / I Am the One

Host	Minsk 2010 & 2018
------	-------------------

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Alekseev / Forever
Finishing Position	NQ

France

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Angelina (Angéline Nava)	Age	11
Song Title (French)	Jamais Sans Toi		
Song Title (English)	Never Without You		
Language(s)	French, English		
Composer(s)	Music & Lyrics: Gary Fico, Julien Comblat, Nicolas Stawski, Sarah Age Ali		

Artist Profile	Angelina comes from southern France, and was the winner of the 2017 edition of <i>The Voice Kids</i> in her homeland.
----------------	---

Song Description	Based on her own experiences with her best friend, "Jamais Sans Toi" is all about the power of friendship, even when that friend is far away from you.
------------------	--

Selection Process	France opted to select its singer and song for Belarus internally.
Date Announced	Artist: 12 th October Song: 15 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2004
No. of JESC appearances	2
Best position	6 th (2004)
Finishing position 2017	-
Artist / Song 2017	-
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Madame Monsieur / Mercy
Finishing Position	13th

Georgia

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Tamar Edilashvili	Age	13
Song Title	Your Voice		
Language(s)	Georgian, English		
Composer(s)	Music: Sopho Toroshelidze / Lyrics: Aleksandre Lortkipanidze		

Artist Profile	Tbilisi-born Tamar first came to fame in her home country by making it to the semifinals of Georgia's <i>X-Factor</i> , progressing further than contestants three times her age.
----------------	---

Song Description	Starting off as an emotional ballad, "Your Voice" quickly ups the tempo and becomes a driving drum and bass anthem about self-confidence.
------------------	---

Selection Process	The children's program <i>Ranina: Mega Project</i> was used to select the artist, and the song was internally selected.
-------------------	---

Date Announced	Artist: 18 th May Song: 9 th October
----------------	---

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2007
No. of JESC appearances	12
Best position	1 st (2006, 2011 & 2016)
Finishing position 2017	2 nd
Artist / Song 2017	Grigol Kipshidze / Voice of the Heart
Host	Tbilisi (2017)

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Ethno-Jazz Band Iriao / For You
Finishing Position	NQ

Ireland

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Taylor Hynes	Age	14
Song Title	I.O.U.		
Language(s)	Irish		
Composer(s)	Music: Niall Mooney & Jonas Gladnikoff / Lyrics: Taylor Hynes & Niall Mooney		

Artist Profile	Dublin-native Taylor had attempted to represent Ireland at Junior Eurovision 2016 with "Níos Airde (Higher)". He is enrolled in his local drama society and as acted in a number of plays and pantos.
----------------	---

Song Description	Bouncy and upbeat, "I.O.U." is all about giving thanks to all of the people you love in your life. Your family, friends, neighbors...we are who we are because of them.
------------------	---

Selection Process	As in previous years, a national final was held on Irish language broadcaster TG4. Four semifinals were held, with the four winners joining two wildcard entries (including eventual winner "I.O.U.") in a six-contestant Final. The winner was decided by jury vote.
Date Announced	11 th November

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2015
No. of JESC appearances	4
Best position	10 th (2016)
Finishing position 2017	15 th
Artist / Song 2017	Muireann McDonnell / Súile Glasa
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Ryan O'Shaughnessy / Together
Finishing Position	16 th

Israel

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Noam Dadon	Age	13
Song Title (Hebrew)	ילדים כאלה (Yelaad'im Ka'ele)		
Song Title (English)	Children Like These		
Language(s)	Hebrew		
Composer(s)	Music & Lyrics: Eden Hason		

Artist Profile	The first solo act to represent Israel, Jerusalem-born Noam is a has a number of songs and covers on his YouTube page. At the age of ten, he was a participant in the Israeli show <i>Master Class</i> .
----------------	--

Song Description	Originally intended for an adult performer, "Children Like These" contrasts a mature sound and message with Noam's youthful voice. The language, vocal inflections, and instrumentation all mark this song as unmistakably Israeli.
------------------	---

Selection Process	Noam was selected from a group of five young singers for the chance to represent Israel in Minsk. His song was chosen internally.
Date Announced	Artist: 6 th September Song: 8 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2012
No. of JESC appearances	3
Best position	8 th (2012)
Finishing position 2017	-
Artist / Song 2017	-
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Netta / Toy
Finishing Position	1st

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Melissa & Marco (Melissa Di Pasca & Marco Boni)	Age	10/14
Song Title	What is Love		
Language(s)	Italian, English		
Composer(s)	Music: Franco Fasano, Marco Iardella / Lyrics: Mario Gardini, Fabrizio Palaferri, Marco Boni, Melissa Di Pasca		

Artist Profile	Marco, age 14, comes from Abruzzo, while Melissa, age 10, is from Liguria. Marco is an alum of the popular Italian show <i>Ti lacio una canzone</i> , as the 2015 edition of San Remo Junior. Melissa is part of a local performance troupe, "Riviera Musical".
----------------	---

Song Description	A sweet, almost cinematic duet, "What is Love" is all about the magic of one's first love.
------------------	--

Selection Process	Italy opted for an internal selection this year for both song and performers.
Date Announced	9 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2014
No. of JESC appearances	5
Best position	1 st (2014)
Finishing position 2017	11 th
Artist / Song 2017	Maria Iside Fiore / Scelgo (My Choice)
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Ermal Meta & Fabrizio Moro / Non mi avete fatto niente
Finishing Position	5th

Kazakhstan

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Daneliya Tuleshova	Age	12
Song Title (Kazakh)	Ózińe sen (Өзіңе сен)/ Seize the Time		
Song Title (English)	Believe in Yourself		
Language(s)	Kazakh, English		
Composer(s)	Music: Ivan Lopukhov / Lyrics: Kamila Dairova, Daneliya Tuleshova, Artyom Kuz'menkov		

Artist Profile	Daneliya is best known as the winner of <i>The Voice Kids</i> in Ukraine in 2017.
----------------	---

Song Description	A sweeping, dramatic, yet modern ballad, "Ózińe sen" is all about taking advantage of every moment that life has to offer.
------------------	--

Selection Process	A national final of 10 competing artists and songs was broadcast live from Almaty. The winner was decided by a 50/50 vote from a panel of judges and a public televote.
Date Announced	22 nd September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2018
No. of JESC appearances	1
Best position	-
Finishing position 2017	-
Artist / Song 2017	-
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	-
Finishing Position	-

FYR Macedonia

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Marija Spasovska	Age	13
Song Title (Macedonian)	Doma		
Song Title (English)	Home		
Language(s)	Macedonian		
Composer(s)	Music: Darko Dimitrov/ Lyrics: Darko Dimitrov, Elena Risteska		

Artist Profile	Skopje native Marija has performed at several youth festivals and competitions, most notably at the 2017 Slavyanskiy Bazar International Children's Festival in Vitebsk, Belarus
----------------	--

Song Description	A mature ballad that wouldn't be out of place in the adult Eurovision contest, "Doma" is a prayer for children's welfare, using the imagery of rain and snow.
------------------	---

Selection Process	The Macedonian artist and song were both internally selected by the broadcaster.
Date Announced	Artist: 24 th August Song: 19 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
No. of JESC appearances	14
Best position	5 th (2007 & 2008)
Finishing position 2017	12 th
Artist / Song 2017	Mina Blažev / Dancing Through Life

Host	-
------	---

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Eye Cue / Lost and Found
Finishing Position	NQ

Malta

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Ela (Ela Mangion)	Age	12
Song Title	Marchin' On		
Language(s)	English		
Composer(s)	Music: Cyprian Cassar / Lyrics: Emil Calleja Bayliss		

Artist Profile	An alumna of New Wave Junior in in 2016, Ela has performed in a number of international music festivals, recently winning the Euro Pop Contest in Berlin last year.
----------------	---

Song Description	"Marchin' On" is a mid-tempo number all about triumphing over adversity and finding the strength and confidence to always move forward.
------------------	---

Selection Process	A national final was held with 16 competing songs and artists.
Date Announced	8 th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
No. of JESC appearances	14
Best position	1 st (2013 & 2015)
Finishing position 2017	9 th
Artist / Song 2017	Gianluca Cilia / Dawra Tond
Host	Marsa 2014 & Valletta 2016

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Christabelle / Taboo
Finishing Position	NQ

The Netherlands

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Max & Anne (Max Albertazzi & Anne Buhre)	Age	14
Song Title (Dutch)	Samen		
Song Title (English)	Together		
Language(s)	Dutch / English		
Composer(s)	Music: Babette Labelij, Robin van Veen, Dimitri Veltkamp / Lyrics: Babette Labelij		

Artist Profile	Max and Anne, both 14, are alumni of <i>The Voice Kids</i> in the Netherlands. This is their first collaboration together.
----------------	--

Song Description	"Samen" is a bittersweet duet about the power of love and friendship. Despite time and distance keeping people apart, memories of good times can ease the pain of being separated.
------------------	--

Selection Process	Four acts competed in the Junior Songfestival 2018 final, which was decided by an adult jury, a kids' jury made up of the members of last year's Dutch JESC act, and a public vote.
Date Announced	29 th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
No. of JESC appearances	16
Best position	1 st (2009)
Finishing position 2017	4 th
Artist / Song 2017	FOURCE / Love Me
Host	Rotterdam 2007 & Amsterdam 2012

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Waylon / Outlaw in'Em
Finishing Position	18 th

Poland

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Roksana Węgiel	Age	13
Song Title	Anyone I Want To Be		
Language(s)	Polish, English		
Composer(s)	Music: Maegan Cottone, Nathan Duvall, Cutfather, Peter Wallevik, Daniel Davidsen / Lyrics: Maegan Cottone, Nathan Duvall, Cutfather, Peter Wallevik, Daniel Davidsen, Małgorzata Uściłowska, Patryk Kumór		

Artist Profile	Roksana "Roxie" Węgiel was the first winner of <i>The Voice Kids</i> in Poland, where she was mentored by 1994 Eurovision participant Edyta Górniak. Since then, she's released a few singles into the local market, and is currently working on her debut album.
----------------	---

Song Description	A modern mid-tempo pop anthem, "Anyone I Want to Be" is a bilingual ode to forging one's own path in life.
------------------	--

Selection Process	For the first time, broadcaster TVP opted for an internal selection.
Date Announced	Artist: 21 st September Song: 6th November

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2003
No. of JESC appearances	5
Best position	8 th (2017)
Finishing position 2017	8 th
Artist / Song 2017	Alicja Rega / Mój Dom

Host	-
------	---

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Gromee ft. Lukas Meijer / Light Me Up
Finishing Position	NQ

Portugal

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Rita Laranjeira	Age	13
Song Title (Portuguese)	Gosto de Tudo (Já Não Gosto de Nada)		
Song Title (English)	I Like Everything (I Don't Like Anything Anymore)		
Language(s)	Portuguese		
Composer(s)	Music & Lyrics: João Só		

Artist Profile	Rita, from Sinta, is taking classes in vocal performance, piano, and theatre. She was a finalist in the Meo Kids Music Fest, and is currently a member of the Junior Choir of Lisbon.
----------------	---

Song Description	Like last year's entry, "Youtuber", this year's song for Portugal is all about how youth experience the world around them via social media, often at the expense of real-life connections.
------------------	--

Selection Process	Ten singers competed for the ticket to Minsk, with the selection decided behind closed doors. The song was selected internally.
Date Announced	Artist: 28 th September Song: 17 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2004
No. of JESC appearances	4
Best position	14 th (2006 & 2017)
Finishing position 2017	14 th
Artist / Song 2017	Mariana Venâncio / Youtuber
Host	-

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Cláudia Pascoal / O jardim
Finishing Position	26 th

Russia

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Anna Filipchuk	Age	14
Song Title (Russian)	Nepobedimy (Непобедимы)		
Song Title (English)	Unbreakable		
Language(s)	Russian / English		
Composer(s)	Music & Lyrics: Taras Demchuk		

Artist Profile	Anna comes from Barnaul in Western Siberia. Along with singing, she enjoys rhythmic gymnastics and has experience as a television presenter.
----------------	--

Song Description	An uplifting anthem, "Unbreakable" is all about dreaming big and reaching goals, especially when you unite with others.
------------------	---

Selection Process	Twelve performers competed at the National Final, with the winner being decided by an online televote as well as a six-member jury that included JESC 2017 champion Polina Bogusevich and ESC 2016 representative Sergey Lazarev.
Date Announced	3 rd June

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2005
No. of JESC appearances	14
Best position	1 st (2006 & 2017)
Finishing position 2017	1 st
Artist / Song 2017	Polina Bogusevich / Wings

Host	-
------	---

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Yulia Samoylova / I Won't Break
Finishing Position	NQ

Serbia

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Bojana Radovanović	Age	13
Song Title (Serbian)	Svet		
Song Title (English)	World		
Language(s)	Serbian		
Composer(s)	Music: Mari Mari (Marija Marić Marković) / Lyrics: Mari Mari (Marija Marić Marković) and Bojana Radovanović		

Artist Profile	Bojana is best known as one of the superfinalists in the 2017 edition of the talent show <i>Pinkove Zvezdice</i> . She released her first single, "Dok ljubav ne osetiš", earlier this year.
----------------	--

Song Description	"Svet" is a sweet ballad about finding peace and beauty in the world by seeing it through the eyes of a child.
------------------	--

Selection Process	The artist and song were both internally selected by Serbian broadcaster RTS.
Date Announced	Artist: 13 th September Song: 8 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
No. of JESC appearances	10
Best position	3 rd (2007 & 2010)
Finishing position 2017	10 th
Artist / Song 2017	Irina Brodić & Jana Paunović / Ceo svet je naš

Host	-
------	---

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Sanja Ilić & Balkanika / Nova Deca
Finishing Position	19 th

Ukraine

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Darina Krasnovetska	Age	11
Song Title (Ukrainian)	Say Love		
Language(s)	Ukrainian / English		
Composer(s)	Music: Mykhailo Klymenko / Lyrics: Mykhaylo Klmenko, Volodymyr Sharykov, Darina Krasnovetska		

Artist Profile	Prior to her appearance at Junior Eurovision, Darina's biggest break came when she took part in <i>The Voice Kids</i> in Ukraine. She comes from the city of Vinnytsia, and has been taking music lessons since the age of six.
----------------	---

Song Description	"Say Love" is a modern battle cry for peace, with a memorable bilingual chorus.
------------------	---

Selection Process	The national final consisted of an online contest. The ten candidate songs were subject to a public vote, as well as the vote of a professional jury.
Date Announced	10 th September

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2006
No. of JESC appearances	13
Best position	1 st (2012)
Finishing position 2017	7 th
Artist / Song 2017	Anastasiya Baginska / Don't Stop
Host	Kyiv 2009 & 2013

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	Mélovin / Under the Ladder
Finishing Position	17th

Wales

Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist	Manw (Manw Lili Robin)	Age	14
Song Title (Welsh)	Perta		
Song Title (English)	Prettiest		
Language(s)	Welsh		
Composer(s)	Music: Ywain Gwynedd, Ifan Siôn Davies, Richard James Hooson Roberts / Lyrics: Ywain Gwynedd		

Artist Profile	Manw (pronounced "Man-oo") comes from the village of Rhosgadfan in North Wales. She's participated in a number of festivals, including the National Eisteddfod of Wales.
----------------	--

Song Description	Originally written about the composer's daughter, "{erta" has evolved into a song about the urgency of saving our environment.
------------------	--

Selection Process	On <i>Chwilio am Seren</i> (Search for a Star), six contestants performed a cover song in Welsh. Regional juries then selected three to move on to the Final, where they each sang a different arrangement of "{erta". A public televote then determined the winner.
Date Announced	9 th October

Junior Eurovision Song Contest History

Debut	2018
No. of JESC appearances	1
Best position	-
Finishing position 2017	-
Artist / Song 2017	-

Host	-
------	---

Eurovision Song Contest 2018

Artist / Song	-
Finishing Position	-

Junior Eurovision 2018 Facts & Figures:

Which countries are coming to Minsk?

20 Nations (the largest number at Junior Eurovision ever!):

- Albania, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, France, Georgia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, FYR Macedonia, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Wales.
- DEBUTING COUNTRIES: Kazakhstan & Wales
- RETURNING COUNTRIES: Azerbaijan, France & Israel
- WITHDRAWING COUNTRIES: Cyprus

Who's singing?

- Male Soloists: Armenia, Belarus, Ireland, Israel
- Female Soloists: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, France, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Wales
- Duos or Groups: Italy, The Netherlands

How old are the performers?

- 10: Albania, Italy (Melissa)
- 11: France, Ukraine
- 12: Armenia, Australia, Kazakhstan, Malta
- 13: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Serbia
- 14: Belarus, Ireland, Italy (Marco), The Netherlands, Russia, Wales

How were they chosen?

- Internal Selection: Australia, Azerbaijan, France, Israel, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Serbia
- National Final: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Malta, Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine, Wales
- Partial National Final (Public Artist Selection, Internal Song Selection): Georgia

What language will the song be performed in? (*Languages may change by the time they reach the JESC stage*):

- English: Australia, Malta
- Bilingual: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, France, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine
- Language Other than English: Armenia, Ireland, Israel, FYR Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia, Wales

How many songs this year were written (at least partially) by the performer?

- Albania
- Azerbaijan
- Ireland
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Serbia
- Ukraine

How many had taken part in non-Eurovision-affiliated TV talent shows or other major international musical festivals?

- Armenia: Participant in Series 4 of *The Voice Kids* (Russia), eliminated in Sing-Offs.
- Azerbaijan: 3rd Place in San Remo Junior 2018
- Belarus: 7th Place in New Wave Junior 2017
 - Competed against JESC alumna Anahit Adamyan
- France: Winner of *The Voice Kids*, 2017
- Georgia: Semifinalist in Series 4 of *X Factor Georgia*
- Italy:
 - Marco:
 - 3rd Place in San Remo Junior 2015
 - Participant in Series 8 of *Ti Lascio Una Canzone*
- Kazakhstan:
 - Winner of Series 4 of *The Voice Kids* (Ukraine)
 - 5th Place and People's Choice Award, New Wave Junior 2015
 - Competed against JESC alumni Gaia Cauchi, Krisia Todorova, Anna Trincher, and Alexander Minyonok
- Macedonia:
 - 3rd Place in 2017 Slavianski Bazaar Children's Festival.
 - Participant in Series 4 of *Pinkove Zvezdice*
- Malta: 2nd Place in New Wave Junior 2016
 - Competed against JESC alum Mikhail "Misha" Grigoryan
- The Netherlands:
 - Anne: Semifinalist in Series 7 of *The Voice Kids*
 - Max: Participant in Series 6 of *The Voice Kids*, eliminated in Battle Rounds
- Poland: Winner of Series 1 of *The Voice Kids*
- Serbia: Superfinalist in Series 3 of *Pinkove Zvezdice*
- Ukraine: Participant in Series 4 of *The Voice Kids*, eliminated in Battle Rounds



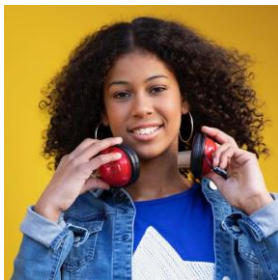









Who was not born in the country they're representing?

- Azerbaijan: Fidan Hüseynova was born in Moscow, Russia.
- Belarus: Daniel Yastremsky was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA.

Who had previously tried to represent their homelands at Junior Eurovision?

- Ireland: 2016, "Níós Airde", Semifinalist
- Malta: 2016, unranked Finalist

2018 Gallery of Artists

 <p>Albania Efi Gjika "Barbie"</p>	 <p>Armenia L.E.V.O.N. "L.E.V.O.N."</p>	 <p>Australia Jael "Champion"</p>	 <p>Azerbaijan Fidan Hüseynova "I Wanna Be Like You"</p>
 <p>Belarus Daniel Yastremsky "Time"</p>	 <p>France Angelina "Jamais Sans Toi"</p>	 <p>Georgia Tamar Edilashvili "Your Voice"</p>	 <p>Ireland Taylor Hynes "I.O.U."</p>
 <p>Israel Noam Dadon "Children Like These"</p>	 <p>Italy Melissa & Marco "What Is Love?"</p>	 <p>Kazakhstan Daneliya Tuleshova "Óziñe sen"</p>	 <p>FYR Macedonia Marija Spasovska "Doma"</p>



Malta
Ela
"Marchin' On"



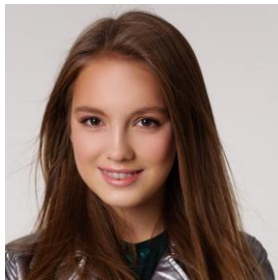
The Netherlands
Max & Anne
"Samen"



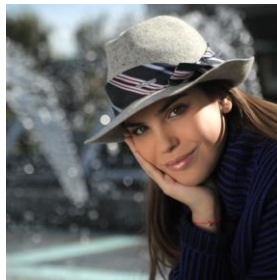
Poland
Roksana Węgiel
"Anyone I Want to Be"



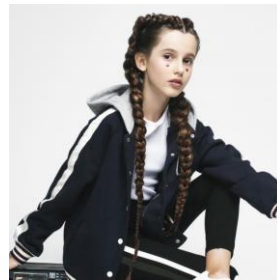
Portugal
Rita Laranjeira
"Gosto de Tudo (Já Não Gosto de Nada)"



Russia
Anna Filipchuk
"Unbreakable"



Serbia
Bojana Radovanović
"Svet"



Ukraine
Darina Krasnovetska
"Say Love"



Wales
Manw
"Perta"

For the music nerds...

Country	Artist	Song	Key	BpM
Albania	Efi Gjika	Barbie	C minor	105
Armenia	L.E.V.O.N.	L.E.V.O.N.	E minor	109
Australia	Jael	Champion	A \flat	75
Azerbaijan	Fidan Hüseynova	I Wanna Be Like You	D to E \flat	80
Belarus	Daniel Yastremsky	Time	A	98
France	Angelina	Jamais sans toi	G	105
Georgia	Tamar Edilashvili	Your Voice	G	135
Ireland	Taylor Hynes	I.O.U.	E \flat	125
Israel	Noam Dadon	Children Like These	A minor	85
Italy	Melissa & Marco	What Is Love?	G to A \flat	75
Kazakhstan	Daneliya Tuleshova	Òziñe sen	D \flat	103
FYR Macedonia	Marija Spasovska	Doma	F minor	75
Malta	Ela	Marchin' On	D	100
The Netherlands	Max & Anne	Samen	G to A \flat	71
Poland	Roksana Węgiel	Anyone I Want to Be	C	79
Portugal	Rita Laranjeira	Gosto de Tudo (Já Não Gosto de Nada)	G	132
Russia	Anna Filipchuk	Unbreakable	F	88
Serbia	Bojana Radovanović	Svet	A to D \flat to E	61

Ukraine	Darina Krasnovetska	Say Love	C minor	110
Wales	Manw	Perta	D to E	84

Information for Broadcaster/Online Content Producers

Please use this guide in whatever way it helps you with your content creation.

We'd appreciate a credit especially if you use it to assist in your
Broadcasting commentary and/or content.

Please credit us as ESC Insight and use our website www.escinsight.com

The JESC 2018 team are:

(In Minsk)

Ewan Spence
Sharleen Wright
Ben Robertson

(Remote)

Ellie Chalkley
Lisa-Jayne Lewis
Ross Middleton
JP Lucas
Samantha Ross

Special Thanks to:

J. Elliot Yates
JuniorEurovision.tv